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Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Tempers explode at Armatec meeting

Chad Ingram
Staff reporter

Representatives from Armatec Survivability could have used some of the company's defensive military technology at an information session at the Harcourt Community Centre on Feb. 22.

The company held the meeting to educate residents about the testing facility it's proposing to build on a 2,300-acre property east of Benoir Lake and people came out in droves, with more than 200 packing the building.

Anger was palpable from the outset.

"This meeting is being held for you, it's not a requirement," Heather Sadler, principal of Eco-Vue Consulting and senior planner for the project, told the room, adding she knew there were many concerns.

Sadler then introduced Karl Pfister, owner and CEO of Armatec, a company that produces protective seating systems and armour for military vehicles.

"I like to be informative," Pfister told the room. "I started in a basement, was unemployed and had a family to feed."

This was in the 1990s.

"In a subdivision of a house," Pfister said. "One guy. It's not a big

corporation."

Armatec now employs approximately 200 people at its main facility in Dorchester, Ont., and has testing areas in Quebec and Alberta.

"We make equipment to save lives," Pfister said. "To do that, we have to do research."

That research includes the detonation of explosives to see how the company's technology holds up in empirical military situations.

Sadler told the crowd she was going to give a presentation about the proposed facility, after which attendees would be able to form lines and ask questions of company employees.

This created an uproar and chorus of boos.

"We want to be informed!" someone yelled.

"That's not transparency!" yelled another.

A man in the centre of the room stood up.

"Everyone in this room believes in what Armatec does," he said. "Our concern is the location. What we need to address is the residents' and cottagers' concerns with location."

Following a brief regroup, Sadler announced that after the presentation, there would be one, large Q and A session.

see RESIDENTS page 4

Olympics experience

Students get to see real bobsled and hear about world-class competition

14



Top skiers

Two Red Hawks Nordic skiers head to Timmins for provincials

16



Duchene brings home the gold

Fans threw up their hands, clapped and shouted at McKecks Tap and Grill in Haliburton at the conclusion of the Canada versus U.S. semi-final at the Winter Games on Friday, Feb. 21. They also gathered at Pinestone on Feb. 23 for the gold medal game. See more Olympics coverage on page 3. **Darren Lum** Staff

Gliddon Highlander of the Year

Jenn Watt
Editor

Haliburton's soft-spoken, music-loving choirmaster Bill Gliddon was recognized as Highlander of the Year at the Chamber of Commerce Business and Community Achievement Awards gala Saturday, Feb. 22.

From amongst a pool of strong, community advocates, Gliddon was chosen for his well-rounded dedication to the cultural and social well being of the Highlands.

"A gentle man with a big heart, Bill is always thinking of the community first, sharing the harvest of his garden, supporting youth in need and always eager to help when the need arises," said Mike Jaycock, MC for the evening.

Gliddon's life revolves around

see AWARDS page 10

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Pool committee shares research results



➤ Membership projected between 1,600 and 2,230

Chad Ingram
Staff reporter

The Community Swimming Pool Initiative resurfaced last week, hoping to make a splash with county council as members gave a presentation to councillors on Feb. 19.

For years the group has advocated for the construction of a recreation centre that would include an indoor swimming pool in the county and in late 2012 commissioned a market demand feasibility study from consulting company Leisure Plan International Inc.

A telephone survey targeted at county residents aged 20 to 75 was conducted, with 885 people interviewed by phone.

Those results were extrapolated and applied to the county's population, with the study concluding a projected total membership of between 1,600 and 2,230 people would be willing to pay \$45 a month for access to a facility in Haliburton Village.

Those figures dropped significantly to between 520 and 890 for a facility located in Minden.

"Retiring boomers want and are willing to pay for amenities," committee member Harvey Bates told councillors.

The committee's ideal facility would have a 25-metre, four-lane pool, as well as recreation and fitness areas, including a walking track.

Committee member Gary McKnight said a similar facility in Petrolia, Ont., has annual operating costs of approximately \$700,000 and revenues of nearly \$600,000, running a deficit of just over \$100,000.

McKnight estimated that the construction of such a facility would cost in the neighbourhood of \$8 million.

"The committee was advised by the consultant that, based on his experience, permanent residents who are very likely or somewhat likely to buy a membership at \$45 a month should account for 80 per cent of the revenue to operate the facility," the report reads. "There are limitations to the survey which may make the interpretation of the findings somewhat conservative. For example, there is an exceptional number of non-permanent residents in Haliburton County who were not included in the research. Anecdotal evidence indicates that many cottagers and residents who go south in the winter would use the facility in the months when they are in the county."

The sole question from council came from Algonquin Highlands Reeve Carol Moffatt, who asked if the committee was aware there were people in the county who couldn't afford firewood.

"There's a lot that's not factored in," Bates said. "Nobody here wants to put any burden on the municipality."

Committee members Gay Bell said fundraising for a facility would be easier once it was up and running.

Children, dressed in their swim gear and holding pictures depicting swimming pool scenes, were also part of the committee's presentation.

Chad Ingram Staff

Jenn Wanless-Craig, back left, Joleen Thomas and their children were dressed in their swimwear and carrying pictures as part of a delegation by the Community Swimming Pool Initiative to Haliburton County council on Feb. 19.

Echo launches new website

➤ **Here, there & everywhere**
news and events worth noting

Visitors to the *Haliburton Echo's* website will notice some changes this week. While the address is the same, the site itself has changed in appearance. Take a moment to check it out and let us know what you'd like to see. As always, readers can follow our stories on Twitter and Facebook throughout the week. Go to www.haliburtonecho.ca to see the new site.

Moose announces trip winner

Jen Browning is the lucky winner of a trip for two to Dominican Republic. The contest was run by Moose FM with sponsorship from Travel Plus and Transat Holidays. Browning said she will give the trip to her parents.

2014 Destination Guide hits stands

With the recent release of the #MyHaliburtonHigh-

lands logo, the County of Haliburton's 2014 Destination Guide is now available to the public.

"The Destination Guide is a must-have companion for #MyHaliburtonHighlands visitors and residents who want to be in the know about all that is happening across the year - there truly is something for everyone," said Amanda Ranson, director of tourism, County of Haliburton.

A total of 50,000 copies of this tourism lure publication will soon be available at locations across the county and the province.

VDO website gets makeover

The Volunteer Dental Outreach for Haliburton County (VDO) has a revamped online presence thanks to a local business.

The site www.dental-outreach.com was originally created by First Page SEO - the same website design and marketing company responsible for its recent overhaul. It's owners, Mark and Roberta Coles, donated both the original site and the newest creation to the VDO.

The updated site, which went live on Feb. 11, features new add-ons including a donation button, fundraising section, biographies on volunteers, and a before and after page titled "Creating Smiles."

In addition to the contributions from the Coles, Internet and off-site back up has been donated by Mike and Cathy Stephens of Systems Software and Support.

Fire dept responds to house fire in Cardiff

On Sunday, Feb. 16 just after midnight, Highlands East Fire responded to a structure fire at 53 Sprucedale St. in Cardiff.

On arrival, the first responding unit was advised that a garage at the rear of this address was fully engulfed.

Two pumpers responded from stations one and six with water supplied by hydrants. Highland Grove and Wilberforce stations went on standby until notified by incident command on scene the situation was under control.

At 2:54 a.m., the fire department started cleanup operations and advised Highlands East Roads Department to respond to Sprucedale Street with salt and sand because of ice.

Submitted by the Highlands East Fire Department



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Haliburton County Echo News

Tuesday, February 25, 2014



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Duchene plays for Haliburton

Charlie Teljeur
Special to the Echo

As Matt Duchene basks in the glory of the 2014 Olympic hockey victory it will mean so much more to him not only for the personal triumph of having achieved global hockey supremacy but also for redemption. In this case, civic redemption. Whatever Matt Duchene has ever done for himself and for his country in the end means the most for what he has done for his hometown of Haliburton.

Duchene has represented his country on every level possible, save one, the World Junior Hockey Championship. He has played in the Under 17 tournament, the Under 18 tournament, the annual World Championships and the Spengler Cup but his one chance to play with the best junior hockey players on the planet in 2009 ended for him in bitter disappointment.

Those who follow his career know of the shoulder separation he tried to play through during tryouts for the 2009 squad. In a tournament dominated by 18 year olds, Duchene, as a 17 year old, needed to be that much better than the rest to even have a chance of being selected but, given this nagging injury and its effect on his play, he simply wasn't at his peak and he became the final cut from the 2009 roster. That team would go on to win gold in Ottawa piloted by fellow Haliburtonian and the tourney's eventual leading scorer Cody Hodgson.

Being the final cut deeply affected

Duchene. He was devastated. He was dejected. But most all he was embarrassed.

"He plays for his town," says his father Vince, "and when Matt was cut from the Canadian Junior team he felt he had let Haliburton down."

Despite the personal disappointment and the potential drop in his draft stock (2009 was Duchene's draft year and his chance to showcase his talents for NHL clubs) the thing that bothered him most was "how much he had let down Haliburton."

Such is the nature of Matt Duchene. Just when you think you've seen him do the most selfless or socially responsible thing possible he shows you another side. While hockey players across the board are renowned for being good guys, Duchene has taken that image to a whole new level and the one constant to all his charitable work and his devotion to cause after cause is that civic factor. As his Dad so aptly put it, Matt plays for Haliburton.

Knowing this, and realizing Duchene's character, it would come as no surprise as to how he would utilize the adversity of not making the 2009 Team Canada World Junior team to his advantage.

"[Matt's junior coach] Stan Butler always had a saying," says Duchene. "You can get bitter or you can get better."

And better is what he became. After recovering from his shoulder injury Duchene finished off his final year in junior in grand style and helped lead the Brampton Battalion to the Ontario Hockey League



The Duchene family, Vince, left, Chris, Jessica and Matt stand under the Olympic rings in Sochi, Russia. Matt Duchene, who is centre for the Colorado Avalanche in the NHL, played for Team Canada at the Winter Games. Submitted by Vince Duchene

final against Windsor. He would be drafted third overall in 2009 and was a finalist for the Calder (NHL's top rookie) Trophy. He would eventually become the youngest player in Colorado Avalanche history to reach 100 points in a career and this past summer was one of 53 elite players invited to Team Canada's Olympic orientation

camp.

On Jan. 7, 2014 he was selected to Team Canada's Olympic roster. His hometown beamed at the news. And on Feb. 23, 2014, Haliburton's Matt Duchene won a gold medal. For himself, for his country and yes, for his hometown.

Local hero redeemed.



Pinestone hosts early morning showing

A group of steadfast Team Canada fans arrived at the Pinestone Resort on Feb. 23 in the early morning to watch the gold medal game between Canada and Sweden in this Sochi Olympics. The crowd cheered on Haliburton's Matt Duchene, who was a centre on the team. Pinestone provided free continental breakfast for everyone who came in.

At left, former NHL player Walt McKechnie and Donna McCallum watch the Canada-Sweden gold medal game on Feb. 23. Photos by Richard Bradley



From Russia with gold

Angelica Blenich
Staff reporter

Apart from witnessing their son win a gold medal for Team Canada, the Duchenes are returning from their trip to Sochi with wonderful memories and a lot less tension in their muscles.

On Feb. 23, parents Vince and Chris and sister Jess watched as Matt Duchene played in the 2014 Olympics on the Canadian men's hockey team, defeating Sweden by a final score of 3-0.

The experience leading up the final game was unlike any other for the family, who flew in to Russia on Feb. 14.

While watching Team Canada compete against the U.S. team in the semi-finals on Feb. 21 the Duchenes felt calm, having confidence in their team, said Vince in an email.

Although the men's game against Team U.S. was silent, the day before the arena was full of noise as the Canadian women's hockey team defeated the Americans in a thrilling overtime victory.

"During the girls game a couple of days ago the rink was alive, people chanting U.S.A., U.S.A., then the Canadian supporters would counter Canada, Canada, and all the local Russians in attendance were supporting Canada so it was really a home rink with support," wrote Vince in an email. "At that moment, when they scored in OT, we

could feel the pride and support of a country all the way over here."

The Duchenes will never forget watching the women's hockey team, which featured Matt's former minor hockey teammate Tara Watchorn, along with other experiences they had in Sochi.

The family went to Canada House almost every day during the games, where the atmosphere was incredible, said Vince.

"We've been there when one of our athletes has won and it goes bonkers ... that has been quite an experience and we've met some of the athletes there as well because they come and hang out there with everyone ... it is one big family in that house," wrote Vince.

Apart from watching other Canadians win medals, the Duchenes met Olympic ice dancers and silver medalists Scott Moir and Tessa Virtue, whom Jessica was thrilled to have her picture taken with.

Vince also tried out the famous Molson beer fridge that is only accessible by scanning a Canadian passport.

Although the games left the family members emotional and teary at times, the three Canadians were treated well by the host country and its residents.

"The Russians LOVE the Canadians," said Vince. "We are constantly asked in the Olympic Park to take pictures with the Russians and at the hockey games ... we feel quite honoured by the hospitality we've been shown by the hosts."



Chad Ingram Staff

Richard Meijer was one of many Benoit Lake residents worried about how a planned facility by military technology company Armatec might affect his property values. An information session on the project was held at the Harcourt Community Centre on Feb. 22.



Karl Pfister of Armatec Survivability addresses an angry crowd at an information session in Harcourt on Feb. 22.

“

I've invested my life in this. This is my retirement.

— Richard Meijer
Harcourt area cottager

Residents skeptical about Armatec

from page 1

Some attendees had no interest in listening to the presentation and people began to holler out questions.

“Is Armatec under contract with the Canadian Armed Forces in any way in this application?”

Pfister said his company does contracts with both the Canadian and American military and while he does not have any specific contracts at the moment, needs to do self-funded research to stay on top of the game.

“What we would like to explain to you is why this project is not going to affect your properties,” Sadler said.

“Put it behind your house!” someone yelled. “Put it in your backyard!”

After nearly 20 minutes, Sadler was able to proceed with the presentation, albeit with heckling throughout.

Most of the property currently has rural zoning and includes some environmentally protected areas, which will remain untouched.

“What’s being proposed is a special rural zoning,” Sadler said, explaining the project doesn’t fit into strict commercial or industrial zoning.

Armaterc has a conditional offer in on the property, subject to obtaining the zoning and official plan changes it requires.

That permission is the decision of Dysart et al councillors, the majority of whom were at Saturday’s meeting.

Sadler explained that 97 per cent of the property would be protected as open space, with three per cent being rezoned for the company’s purposes.

She said Armaterc would use approximately 20 hectares of space, broken in “four little blobs” for a track, survivability testing site, storage area and entrance building of approximately 10,000 square feet.

The track, where vehicles would be driven over obstacles to test mobility, would be located 600 metres from the property line.

According to the company, mobility testing creates about as much noise as a medium-sized tractor.

The survivability testing site – where detonations would occur – would be located in the centre of the property, 1.6 kilometres from the property line.

According to company, the explosions would have a sound pressure level slightly higher than that of a power saw or planer, with a duration of one second.

These explosions would happen no more than 30 times a year and no more than once a day.

There would be fencing to keep people and animals out of testing areas. According to the company, regular soil testing must be done for any soil contamination from explosive byproducts in accordance with government regulations.

Sadler said all necessary studies and assessments are being completed, including an archeological assessment.

The planner stressed Armaterc produces only defensive, not offensive, military technology.

“No tank testing,” she said. “No bombs.”

It is estimated the site would create from five to 15 jobs, with Sadler stressing this would mean economic spinoff in terms of home sales, grocery shop-

ping, vehicle repair, etc.

“Plus there’s going to be people coming to observe the testing,” she said.

One woman wanted to know what kind of forest fire risk there might be.

“Immediately surrounding the test facility, there’s going to be no vegetation,” Pfister told her, adding everything had to be done in compliance with government regulations and that explosives could not be used in event of a fire ban.

One man asked if Pfister would be willing to enter into a social contract with the community that he wouldn’t expand the facility beyond what is in the proposal.

“I can entertain such a suggestion,” Pfister said.

Pfister was asked what was stopping him from moving into offensive military technology.

“My morals,” he responded, drawing some scoffs and jeers from the crowd. “We put it on our mission statement, our mandate is to save lives.”

“I didn’t come here to see tanks!” one man yelled. “I came here to sit on my dock and enjoy life!”

“Nobody wants you!” shouted another, drawing a round of applause.

Many attendees expressed concern the facility would depreciate the value of their properties.

“I’ve invested my life in this,” Richard Meijer said of his cottage, located in the shoreline residential area between the subject property and the lake. “This is my retirement.”

“My husband and I have put our lives into maintaining our cottage,” one woman said.

“You’re absolutely correct that real estate is based on perception,” Sadler said, but added it was part of her duty to demonstrate there would be no adverse effects for surrounding property owners. “You’re not even going to notice it’s there. In the end, it will become clear what we’re saying is true.”

“Give us some more bull crap, lady!” one man yelled.

Other attendees asked Pfister if he produced weaponry for the American police state, or if he had ties to Saudi oil. His answer was no.

“You are coming here and you are going to ruin our lives and everything here,” one woman said.

Another promised that residents would be fighting the proposal.

If Dysart et al council denies the application, Pfister can appeal it with the Ontario Municipal Board.

Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey told the paper he’d been in touch with the reeve from Dorchester who reported that Pfister had a good reputation, was true to his word and that his facility there caused no problem for the community.

Councillor Steve Pogue, whose ward includes Harcourt, said he’d been talking to a politician from the village located 500 metres from Armaterc’s Quebec testing site and gotten a similar response, that the facility didn’t bother the community.

There were two OPP cruisers standing by in the community centre parking lot following the meeting.

A legislated public meeting on the project is scheduled for March 3 at 5 p.m. in Dysart et al council chambers.



Haliburton Highlands Dogsled Derby March 1–2, 2014 Pinestone Resort

Friday February 28th

7 pm Registration (outside Highlanders Pub)
8 pm Welcome & Bib Draw (Highlanders Pub)

Saturday March 1st

7:30 am Late Registration (Kinmount Room)
8 am Drivers Meeting
9 am 1 dog Ski-joring

10:15 am 4 Dog Race
11:45 am 2 Dog Skijoring
12:45 pm Kid & Mutt
1:15 pm 6 Dog Race
2:30 pm Youth Race
3:15 pm 8 Dog Race

Sunday March 2nd

7:30 am Drivers Meeting
8:30 am 1 dog skijoring
9:45 am 4 dog race
11:15 am 2 dog skijoring
12:15 pm 6 Dog race
1:30 pm Youth Race
2:15 pm 8 Dog Race
4 pm Presentations



For more information visit www.haliburtondogsledderby.com or call Winterdance 705-457-5281

Club's first robot headed north

Darren Lum
Staff reporter

While other teens were snowboarding or playing video games during the Family Day long-weekend, the 12 members of the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Red Hawks Robotics Team were at the high school bringing life to their robot.

The students, who range from Grade 9 to 12, are excited about their first foray in the FIRST Robotics Challenge when they compete at the North Bay regional competition from March 27 to 29 at Nipissing University.

There are 34 high school teams pre-registered for the competition. Many have far more experience.

This doesn't bother the club's founding members, Felix Scuhr and Sam Tyler.

The Grade 12 students are proud of the robot that can move, catch and pick up a ball.

"It's really unbelievable. Honestly, you look at it ... it's really hard to understand. Until you try to make it do you realize how much is involved in trying to put all of it together," Felix said.

There wasn't one challenging thing. It was everything, he said.

"Honestly, everything is its own little mountain you have to climb," he said.

The club had to consider a limited amount of materials, the step-by-step set of instructions so the robot does what it is commanded within the competition's framework.

The challenge is "Aerial Assist."

Every team had to build a robot that can shoot a 24-inch diameter ball seven feet into the goal. Points are awarded for scoring, but more are awarded for passing to robot teammates. Each robot must be made according to specifications. They can be no taller than five feet and cannot extend beyond 20 inches from the outside of the frame.

Back in October, the club's faculty advisor Dan Fockler asked them about their interest when he learned of available funding.

Dan Gimon, who works in maintenance department for the school, headed up the club with Fockler from the start.

The best part was seeing the group's reaction to finishing it last Monday.



Darren Lum Staff

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Red Hawks Robotics Team is excited to be involved in the FIRST Robotics Challenge. They will participate in the North Bay Regional competition from March 27 to 29.

"Seeing their faces when it did what it was supposed to do last night at about [6 p.m.]," he said. "Seeing their faces light up and go, 'OK, we've accomplished something ... for a rookie team it's pretty good.'"

Gimon is an electrician by trade and has extensive experience in the auto sector with General Motors and Ford, Ontario Hydro and the Pickering nuclear plant. He jumped at the chance to be involved.

He saw the club members exude a high level of thought and logic, cooperation and communication.

As far as Gimon knows there hasn't been anything like this before at the high school.

The diverse mix of members is unified in their pursuit of academics, he said.

"I think it's a mind thing. A challenge, software. You've got people that are interested in software. You've got people interested in mechanical. Some guys want to go on to engineering," he said.

Their biggest challenge, he said, was in the design stage, spending close to five

weeks with sketches and prototype work.

Much of the problem was considering the options, Scuhr said.

Although the team only had one prototype, it had undergone many variations before they were able to finalize the robot for production in the last week of the allotted six.

Gimon said the club started on Jan. 4 with the kick off at the Ontario Science Centre.

Gimon is realistic about the team's chances at the competition.

"We'd be happy to go out there as rookie team and gather a few balls, pass

a few balls and not have [the robot] break down on us and make it work. Have people come up to us and say, 'great job,' he said.

He acknowledges their robot can't do everything.

Whatever their robot is unable to perform will be completed by their random teammate.

More points, they said, will be made for co-operative actions, like passing, than scoring.

Inventor Dean Kamer founded FIRST.

He started it to foster students' interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The team is grateful to Huntsville High School's Ian McTavish for his mentoring and to Jackie Mayhew of HHSS for her support.

Support is welcome for this fledgling club.

This can come in the form of funding, mentoring, discounts on merchandise, donations and in service to assist the team.

Call the school 705-437-1037 or email Gimon (dan.gimon@tldsbn.on.ca) or Fockler (dan.fockler@tldsbn.on.ca).

The club's youngest member, Grade 9 Betty Paton, joined as soon as she learned about it from Felix.

"I learned a lot more about what I like doing and it's been fun," she said.

Betty, who thought seeing the robot completed as the best part, participated in the J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School's version of the robotics club last year.

"Robotics is fun. Who doesn't want to build a robot?" she said.

Like his youngest member, Gimon is excited for the future.

Many of the essential robotic parts will be in place and the more experience will mean a better chance for success.

"I think we'll be a little more prepared next year," he said.

Snowmobile stolen from residence

Haliburton Highlands detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police is currently investigating the theft of a 2011 Polaris snowmobile. The sled was parked at a residence on Dovers Hill Road in the Municipality of Dysart et al and was taken sometime between Feb. 14 and 19.

It's described as a black and red 2011 Polaris 800cc Rush model worth approximately \$8,000. Anyone with information is asked to contact PC Skipworth at Haliburton Highlands OPP 705-286-1431 or the Kawartha-Haliburton Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), on-line at www.khcs.ca.

Pair arrested for stolen smokes

Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) investigated thefts of cigarettes from the Pioneer Gas Station on Highway 35 in the Township of Minden Hills.

During December 2013, a quantity of cigarettes were stolen from the retail outlet. As a result, a 43-year-old man and a 42-year-old woman both from Minden have been charged with theft under \$5,000 and are

scheduled to appear in the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden on March 5.

Update in pair accused of theft

Additional charges have been added in the investigation of the thefts from vehicles by the Haliburton Highlands detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police.

As a result, a 22-year-old woman from Haliburton has been charged with nine counts of possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000 which now brings her total charges to 11.

The additional charges were as a result of an investigation to determine ownership of property originally seized through the execution of a search warrant.

The property was stolen from vehicles in the Haliburton County area from the spring of 2013 to December 2013.

To date, a total of 29 charges have been laid against the woman and co-accused man also from Haliburton.

She is scheduled to appear in the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden on March 5.

Submitted by the OPP

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points of view



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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

On civility

YOU DON'T OFTEN hear that an online discussion is more civil than one face-to-face.

The Internet is regularly maligned for its flammers, trolls and anonymous hecklers, but behaviour this last week has proved the opposite can sometimes be true.

In Harcourt, debate has been ongoing for weeks about a possible armour-testing site.

Armaterc Survivability, a military technology company, proposes setting up a site on 2,300 acres of land near Benoit Lake on the border of Haliburton and Hastings counties in Dysart et al.

Little about the plan has come out save for at a meeting of Dysart et al council Jan. 27, reported in the *Echo* at the time, and an article in the *Toronto Star* last week.

With the information that was out there, Haliburton County residents have been actively, respectfully, debating online whether testing armour in cottage country is good for the community.

The key word is respectfully.

One discussion on Facebook has more than 50 comments with participants fleshing out reasonable, important points for and against.

Some are worried that such a facility would disturb the peace; some think military testing doesn't fit well with the Highlands' image.

On the other side, residents see the promise of jobs and believe Armaterc when it says the testing won't be very noisy and won't have much environmental impact.

The harshest thing said online was "I can't understand [why] no one seems to be looking at what we are willing to do (or give up) for jobs."

Contrast that to what happened during a public information session Feb. 22 in Harcourt, reported on page 1 by Chad Ingram.

Planner Heather Sadler was

booed. Armaterc CEO Karl Pfister was shouted down.

Audience members yelled out questions during presentations and presenters were heckled.

"Nobody wants you!" was one jeer lofted anonymously from the crowd. "Put it behind your house!" yelled another.

And "Give us some more bull crap, lady!"

Not everyone at the meeting took that approach, but unfortunately those who chose to obstruct the meeting set the tone.

What makes the least sense is the futility of disrupting an information session.

No decisions were being made Saturday – that is up to Dysart et al council.

The best way to ensure council makes the right decision is to go to council itself.

Turning a public meeting into a hostile environment won't stop

anything from happening; it just hinders information from getting out and people from having their say.

A winning weekend

The Pinestone was host to two displays of Haliburton Highlands pride this weekend.

On Saturday night, the Chamber of Commerce held its annual business and community awards gala honouring some of the county's incredible people, companies and organizations.

While each category has only one "winner," those nominated showed real deference to one another, often giving hugs and cheering on fellow nominees.

The next day, hundreds flocked to the Pinestone again to do some more cheering as Matt Duchene and Team Canada brought home gold in men's hockey at the Olympics.

A weekend of well-deserved pride.



Jenn Watt
Editor



Haliburton warmth

photo by Darren Lum

Imprinting the county

IAM WRITING THIS ahead of Saturday night's Business and Community Achievement awards put on by the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce. It is an evening to celebrate some of the many people who work hard in their businesses and the community to make Haliburton County a great place to live, work, visit, play, relax and explore.

We all know we are lucky to live in such a vibrant and interesting place. Everything is possible here because of the people who work and volunteer and give.

Everyone who attends the evening, whether they go home with an award or not is a winner. We are all making a difference in some way.

And for every person who was nominated, there are another 100 who weren't, but are doing great work in their own quiet way.

In the yogic perspective of the body, the fifth element is the ether element, or commonly called "space." My last two articles referred to the fact that humans are a microcosm of the macrocosm.

We are made of the same elements of the planet (earth, water, fire, air and ether).

I love the focus on the elements simply because of the positive images they give me to work with in my body and in my life (strong, stable, grounded like the earth; fluid, receptive, flowing like the water; strong,

determined, passionate, dedicated like the fire; full of freedom and light like the air).

The ether element suggests there is space around us in the atmosphere that is full of intelligence and a felt sense of well being. It is always lifting us up, supporting us and helping us feel buoyant. The ether element connects us the infinite possibilities.

The yogis suggest the ether space is around us, and is in us.

The only thing that separates the two is a thin, one-millimetre layer of skin. What I love about the ether, is that a yoga teacher said to me "we are always imprinting the space/ether around us and in us with every thought and action that we have."

I think that is pretty incredible to consider. Our thoughts and actions not only affect our own bodies,

but with everyone we come into contact with. And so as I get my pretty little dress out to iron and get ready for the gala tomorrow night, I am thinking about all the people who will be there and what they are imprinting into the community.

They all care and think about their work or project and obviously someone in their life has noticed it and nominated them. We are all Highlanders of the Year when we imprint positive, caring, proactive, creative energy into our county. It all helps to make this a great place to live. Congratulations to everyone.



Lynda Shadbolt
Tales from The Great
Green Meadow



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien

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points of view

Manual labour

THERE ARE MANY dangers in the great outdoors but few can rival those inflicted by the owner of a new piece of technology. I learned this the hard way, many years ago while sitting at the bow of a boat on opening morning of duck season while my brother used his new GPS to expertly navigate us in endless circles through pea-soup, thick fog.

I can't say this with absolute certainty, but I suspect he was holding the unit upside down. Which is OK, because it still makes him better at using a GPS than many outdoorsmen I know. Typically, they can't even turn the thing on.

Sadly, Martin and I never did get to the duck blind on time that morning, but it wasn't a complete loss since our propeller did locate several rocky shoals and weed beds that – had he actually taken the time to read the GPS's manual – we could have marked and revisited on later fishing trips.

And therein lays the problem. Outdoorsmen do not read manuals.

I think this is because, for some inexplicable reason, they believe that the minute they open a box that contains complex technology they and the unit will imprint much like a baby duck and its mother.

That is to say they actually believe that – though they can't figure out how to answer their cellphone – they can intuitively run a highly complex piece of machinery without ever having read the instructions. That's nonsense, of course.

Only six-year-olds have this power.

The rest of us just press buttons until we finally break down and phone for tech support.

Right now, during the ice fishing season, a lot of us are experiencing these

sort of technical issues. Mostly with the complicated sonar units we need to outsmart a perch.

Despite comprehensive manuals and a plethora of instructional YouTube videos, I'm guessing every second ice angler with a sonar unit is simply watching all the blips and colours on the screen without a clue of what any of it means. Not that we let on.

But at least this is harmless. You can hardly get yourself in too much trouble by not understanding fish finding electronics.

There are some manuals you really should read, however. Basically, it's prudent to be familiar with the manual of any piece of outdoors gear that can create big holes.

The manual that accompanies your power augers immediately comes to mind. In fact, show me an ice hut with several 10-inch, port hole windows and I'll show you a guy who never read the manual of his power auger.

It's also wise to read the instructions that come with any gear designed to get you airborne. In this case, I'm talking about portable ice fishing shelters. In fact, in most instances, when an ice angler who owns one of these is late for dinner, it's because he is hitching a ride back to his car – from Quebec.

Needless to say, we outdoorsmen are not alone when it comes to ignoring manuals. Other groups, such as those who purchase furniture from IKEA, are also known for this. The big difference is the worst that can happen to them is that they find themselves trapped in a book case for a few hours.

That's child's play compared to the mayhem the average outdoorsman can find himself in. I once knew a guy who spent a weekend in a mummy-style sleeping bag – which wouldn't have been so bad had he not entered into it head first. This, by the way, is something I would have known, had I only read the manual.

If there is one instance where it truly makes sense to read the manual, it is before using any tool that requires the pairing of a hand-held flame with combustible liquid or gas. But, again, all you need do is look at the number of outdoorsmen without eyebrows to see that this isn't happening.

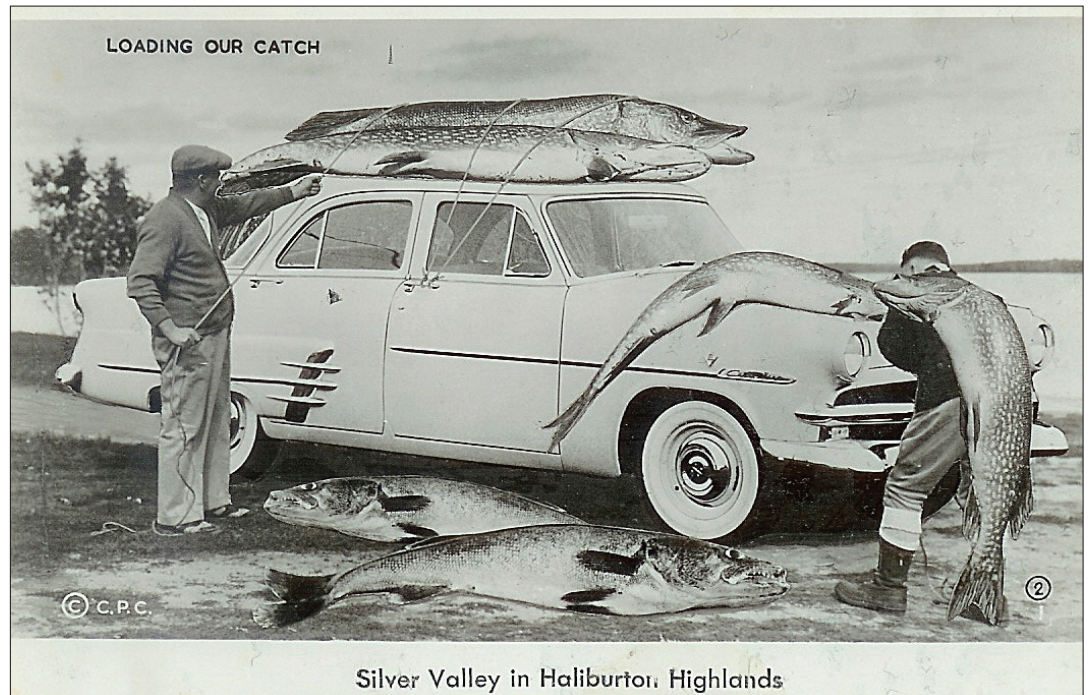
The point I am trying to make here is that there's no reason why an outdoorsman shouldn't read a manual. It's not all that difficult or time consuming. There's nothing to be afraid of either. All a manual does is detail the best ways to use the expensive tool you just snuck in the house. Read one and, in the end, you'll be able to take full advantage a wonderful piece of technology.

You don't have to read these things, of course. But you're never truly going to realize the full potential of whatever tool you've bought if you haven't read the manual.

Unless, of course, you're lucky enough to have a six-year-old with you.



Steve Galea
Loon Tales



pic of the past

Silver Valley in Haliburton Highlands. Clayton and Herina's hospitality, a box of Cracker Jack popcorn for a dime and amusing fishing postcards are all fondly remembered. Submitted by Jean Knowlton

letters to the editor

Algonquin Park's Apocalypse Now

To the Editor,

Re: Toronto Star's Feb. 19 article, "Tank testing coming to cottage country"

At first I chuckled and thought it a joke. Then when this absurd story was actually reality based I was simply flabbergasted. Oh, come on! Tank testing coming to cottage country? What?

I proceeded to peruse through the *Toronto Star* article written by Marco Chown Oved. An article that made my heart sink like a lead Zeppelin. It addressed the implausible purchase of 2,300 acres of land adjacent to Algonquin Park and cottages along Benoir Lake for purposes of testing tanks. The article noted explosions and terrain-pounding tests from these behemoth mobile fortresses of aggression. Really?

Although these words may seem self-serving, as I have just recently purchased a property on Benoir Lake, they may also be words a majority of Canadians can hopefully relate to and possibly support. Would many people want such a facility near their abode? I think not.

My wife and I purchased this place for retirement. We are not the chosen few with money to burn. We are a typical couple working in the metropolis gridlock who found an affordable country home for our golden years. A place near Algonquin Park that we thought was sacred ground – true Canadiana: lakes, forest, wildlife ... tanks?

Oved's article noted that Armatex Survivability, a London-based tank-armour manufacturer is attempting to purchase this large parcel of land. When visiting

their website, I found a company Q and A that propagate their agenda concerning environmental and residential impact. OK – I understand this private company purchasing property. It's all about the bottom line: profits, funding, etc.

What I don't understand is government. This is near Algonquin Park and lakeside cottages. Sorry, but municipal zoning for "armour tank testing" near said areas? LOL (this is the first time I truly believe the acronym is appropriate). We don't need municipal amendments or rezoning to accommodate big company purchases. We need government and environmental ministries to regulate the obvious when it comes to areas near nature parks. We need government and environmental ministries to protect taxpayers who purchase properties around our lakes to live the Canadian dream.

Armatex Survivability is a manufacturer of armour upgrades for U.S. and Canadian tanks and armoured vehicles. This is a necessary evil in many ways and a support to our troops. However, why on God's green earth (pun intended) would you put such a facility in this location? Is this not what we fight for?

I wish to protect what the Algonquin Park area is meant to be – a natural environment. That is why the residents around Benoir Lake (just south of Algonquin Park) purchased properties. Such a facility anywhere near the proposed area is preposterous.

I hope these solo words become a choir in protest. Please help with support and guidance.

Jeff Young

BOONIEVILLE



letters

Strong finish at Yukon Quest

To the Editor

We have just returned from a wonderful trip to the Yukon, a place of breathtaking beauty and, at times, breathtaking cold. By happy coincidence, we were able to experience a bit of the Yukon Quest and, in fact, meet Hank DeBruin and his wife Tanya.

Darren Lum's recent article was very well written and descriptive but no words can completely convey the bravery and tenacity of the mushers and their dogs in facing some of the most arduous conditions on earth. Even seasoned veterans failed to finish for various reasons but Hank persevered and actually gained positions in the latter stages of the race.

In the Yukon, Haliburton is well known through Hank. He is well known and respected and local people frequently referred to his Haliburton connection.

Haliburton should be very proud of Hank, Tanya and Winterdance.

Congratulations, Hank, on your strong finish in the 2014 Yukon Quest.

Margaret and David Brisbin
Soyers Lake

The loss of verbal skills

Gerald Irish
Senior's Moment

My pet peeve today is electronic communications.

Surviving this long has earned me the right to express my opinions. You don't have to agree but I hope you will at least read them. Maybe I'm upset because I don't understand all these modern devices and how they work or why they have become such an integral part in our daily lives.

Facebook intrigues me. Some Facebook stories that have flashed by on our computer screen are so incredibly important that in the last little while I have learned such vital information as:

1."Our baby cried for 10 minutes before I could get him calmed down."

2. "Mabel bought two dozen eggs for \$3.50."

3. "Saul came by to visit."

4. "Driving to work today was sheer hell."

I hope that means the writer of No. 4 found time to keep both hands on the wheel.

Is what is being said on these gizmos so important that it can't wait until you see the person you are contacting?

Have you ever tried to visit with someone who is texting or playing games or contacting all his or her friends? Forget the visit. All of a sudden these mechanical devices have become more important than you. Just after the holidays I heard of a lady who had invited all of her family and extended family for Christmas breakfast. Greeting them on their arrival, in the entranceway, was a gaily decorated box with a fairly large opening in the top and bearing a plainly printed sign that said, "Please turn off all cell-phones, electronic devices, etc. and deposit them in this box."

You may pick them up on your way out."

One of the family members told me they had some great visits and got to learn a little more about each other.

Bravo to that lady.

Don't get rid of these devices. Use them. Enjoy them. Just don't let them run your life You can live without them. Direct face-to-face communications are still important.

Confession time. I use a computer and I write to people and email letters and articles. It saves me from getting up from my chair and off my substantial rear.

It is convenient, but I prefer to talk to people and to continue my verbal communications skills.

Thanks for reading this old man's rant.

Pond hockey: questions still unanswered?

To the Editor,

In spite of John Teljeur's very well written sales pitch for the Canadian National Pond Hockey Championships (CNPHC) in last week's Echo, in my view some specific, significant questions still remain. So allow me to make my own sales pitch to the municipal representatives within this county and urge them to ask appropriate questions when CNPHC makes its final report to county council, so they can make an informed decision as to whether CNPHC deserves further financial support from Haliburton County's public coffers and public relations support in general.

Dear councillors, you could start with these specific questions. Did CNPHC indeed take in approximately \$120,000 in revenue from team registrations in each of the past two years? How much additional financial revenue by way of sponsorships did CNPHC receive? How much money did CNPHC have to pay out in actual expenses to run the tournament in each of the last two years? What were these expenses, specifically? That is, what specific equipment, services, supplies, other expenses, etc. comprised the expense outlay? What services specifically did J Core and/or Neil Lumsden provide and how much were they paid for those services?

CNPHC claims that "what they raise here stays here." Specifically, how much money does indeed stay here and where exactly does it stay in Haliburton County? I believe CNPHC has claimed they purchased some equipment for clearing outdoor ice that can be used by other groups in the county. Forgive me if I am mistaken, but on Frost Festival weekend I noticed people shovelling off the

rinks on Head Lake by hand.

Finally, let me say how unfortunate it is that John Teljeur has viewed my letter as a personal attack on him. His close friends have reminded me, and I know myself, just how much John cares about this community and how much energy and personal time he puts into making Haliburton County a better place. As I have indicated to John, I submitted my first letter solely motivated by a sense of civic duty and the knowledge that many, many citizens in this county want to hear specific answers to the questions I have posited above. So, one final question for you, John. It appears you and you alone are passionate about defending CNPHC's actions and motivations. I did not see Neil Lumsden's name nor the names of any other CNPHC organizers as signatories to your letter last week. If you and your CNPHC colleagues wish to win the citizens of this county over to your cause you need to provide specific answers to the questions we are asking.

And if CNPHC is looking for ways to make a really significant contribution back to the community I have at least two great ideas. How about getting behind the renewed initiative to bring a swimming pool/recreation centre to the community? Or, how about getting behind the new initiative Dysart is looking at to provide recreation and physical fitness activities for the youth and children of the community? Come to the meeting on March 6 at Fleming College to find out more.

Walter Tose
Haliburton

Say no to Armatec

To the Editor,

There are many natural wonders to see in the world and Haliburton County is very fortunate to be the home of some fantastic scenery. It proudly portrays itself as a tourist and cottage area with outstanding scenery and yet on Monday, March 3 the council of Dysart et al will hold a public meeting to consider proposed amendments to the official plan and to its zoning bylaws to permit the development of lands for a testing and research area for survivability of military grade armoured vehicles. As per their definition they will be testing systems designed to protect armoured vehicles and their occupants against threats posed by land mines and other weapons.

I fully appreciate the Armatec Survivability Corporation's concerned efforts to deliver capabilities that may save the lives of men and women in a battlefield however I do not believe such a large scale industrial research and development facility fits in with the rural environment of Haliburton County.

I firmly believe this project has a high potential for negative impact on several criteria. The first being the negative impact on adjacent lands. Seventy-five acres of the land contained within the proposed development are adjacent to the provincially significant Baptiste-Elephant Lake Wetlands, a prized piece of unspoiled beauty that the county should be very proud to have. Dysart et al's official plan indicates a clear desire for the protection of wetlands. I have deep concerns regarding the proposed changes and sincerely feel the nature of the use of the land could potentially have incalculable risk to the wetlands. It cannot be emphasized enough how important these wetlands are to people, the animal world and the environment.

The wetlands is not the only contentious issue. The nature of the proposed use of the lands will also have a very negative impact on the natural habitat to a variety of species - birds, moose, wolves, deer, bears etc. that live within the confines of the area. Algonquin Provincial Park, where their mandate is to help preserve, protect and restore the ecological richness and native biodiversity of the area, is just across the road (260 metres) from the area concerned.

The proximity of full time and seasonal home owners (500 metres from Benoir Lake) is very disturbing. These people have built their homes in Haliburton because of their love for the natural beauty of the area. They should not be subjected to 60 small scaled survivability tests, 30 full scale survivability tests and 120 mobility tests per year where armoured vehicles weighing from two to 50 tonnes run through an obstacle course for up to several hours a day. There may be even more than these proposed tests as Armatec has already indicated they cannot share or use CF bases in Ontario because of the frequency they require to perform their tests. Given Armatec has a reputation for using a holistic approach toward its research, investigating all aspects for survivability and protection of military grade armoured vehicles such as the LAVIII, I have concerns regarding noise and its affect on local residents and wildlife. They indicate the noise impact would be like dull thudding sounds rather than the sharp sound of a rifle. During the mobility tests the noise would be comparable to a medium sized tractor. These noise disturbances could prove very unsettling to those

living in such close proximity to the testing sites. An increase in noise is itself disruptive and can cause panic episodes, stress, sleep disturbance and headaches, especially in a rural area where there is an expectation of quiet.

Air quality is another concern. Armatec has admitted there will be additional amounts of carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide released into the air.

Public safety comes into play on a number of fronts. I have concerns regarding the transportation of explosives through the neighbouring communities while en route to the site and the safe storage of magazines on the designated site. Further to this I am concerned the entire area will not be fenced off providing clear demarcation lines for unannounced visitors, human or animal, who might inadvertently wander into a test area.

Tourism value is another concern. The proposed site is very near the south entrance to Algonquin Park. There are local businesses that count on tourists visiting this area. I do not believe the sounds of blasting will enhance the local tourist economy at nearby resorts, campground, horse riding establishment, etc.

Aesthetics is another concern. The sight of large transport trucks hauling vehicles and military vehicles will not be very welcoming. Vehicular traffic patterns will definitely change causing increased volumes of vehicles and safety risks on local roads.

There is a possibility of five to 15 jobs, however, the criteria for some of the jobs requires specialized training therefore narrowing the playing field for those eligible for the positions. Persons from outside the area may be required to fill many of the positions.

The 10 acre parcel of land zoned to accommodate the proposed primary research and testing area is in the vicinity of a crumbling stone fence that was built in the late 1870s when the Mason Farm, an agricultural depot for the logging industry, was in existence. The fence was made from thousands of rocks that were hand cleared from the land so the rugged ground could be plowed. Many of our forefathers were there handling those stones.

I recommend everyone to keep in mind the ability to enjoy a non-industrial natural experience is a very large part of Haliburton's economy. Large industrial proposals such as the one proposed for the Benoir Lake area is not part of the desired experience. As the official plan states "recreation and tourism are and will continue to be the area's most significant industry".

In Armatec's value statement they indicate holding themselves accountable to do what is right. I believe we all need to hold ourselves accountable to do what we feel is right and in the best interest of the Benoir Lake area. Given the cumulative potential environmental, economic, health and safety and negative community impacts from this proposal we need to speak up and say no to the proposed official plan amendments and zoning bylaw amendments on the lands belonging to Mason, Sanayel and 1725629 Ontario Inc. in the northeast corner of the township of Harcourt.

Valerie Smith
Lindsay

County insurance costs rise

Chad Ingram
Staff reporter

The following are brief reports of items discussed during a Feb. 19 county council meeting.

The renewal of Haliburton County's insurance policy for 2014-2015 will cost nearly \$225,000, up approximately \$45,000 from the previous year.

"This cost is attributed to the fact that two significant claims are shown on the history of losses," a report from treasurer Laura Janke read. "The carrier has set up significant reserves for the potential losses, which has increased our liability premium this year."

Those claims were being discussed in closed session with a representative from Jardine Lloyd Thompson Canada Ltd.

No hashtag

Tourism director Amanda Ranson informed council that the county's new tagline – #MyHaliburtonHighlands – will not be permitted on boundary signage along provincial highways.

The MTO does not allow Internet addresses on such signage and according to a report from Ranson, "The MTO feels the hashtag (#) falls into the same category as an Internet address."

The tagline will read MyHaliburtonHighlands on the signs. The hashtag may still be included on signage on county roads.

A taste of the Highlands

Alan Clarke, chairman of the 2015 Ontario 55+ Winter Games, to be hosted in Haliburton County, said the event will attempt to integrate participants into the community more than the 2011 games, also hosted in the county.

A planned venture called A Taste of the Highlands will have up to 16 events taking place at 16 venues – accommodations, eateries – in the community.

The games take place next February.

Whispering Pines?

It looks like the affordable housing complex outside Haliburton Village on County Road 21 will be named Whispering Pines.

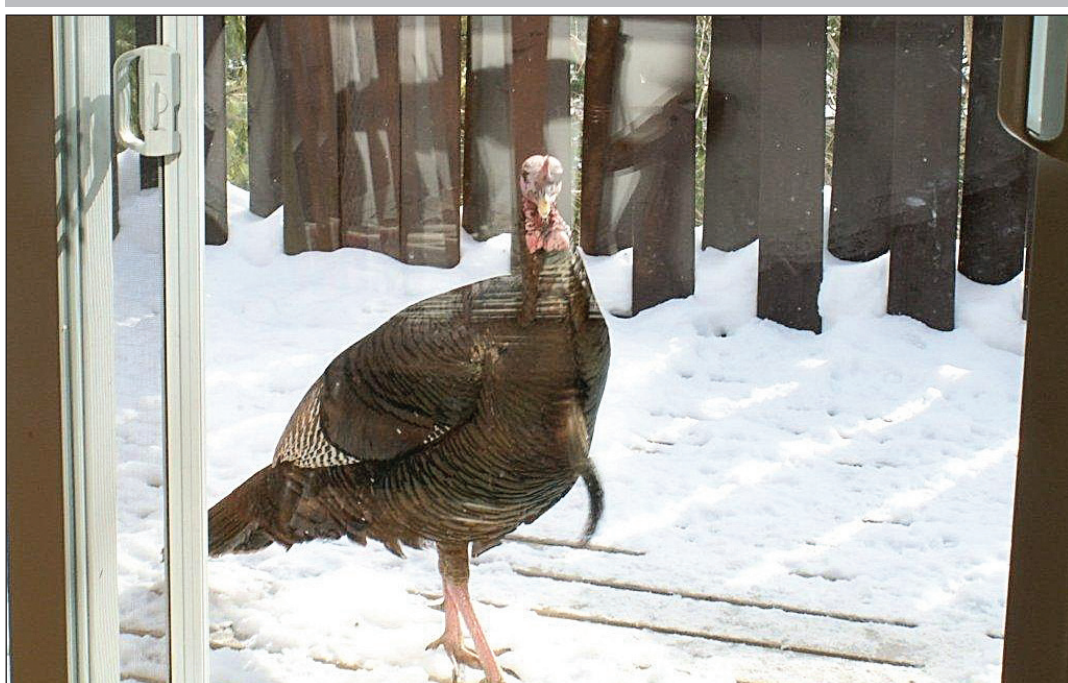
While the Kawartha Lakes-Haliburton Housing Corporation had originally proposed the name Haliburton Highlands of Hope, that didn't sit well with county councillors, who'd made a request to be able to name the building.

The county paid \$190,000 into the \$2.9 million project, the rest coming from the province and feds.

The housing corporation had responded it would put it to the residents of the building to suggest names.

The top three were Whispering Pines, Grass Lake Apartments and Edgewater Apartments.

Councillors put their support behind Whispering Pines.



Wildlife in your backyard

Have a great nature shot? Send it to jenn@haliburtonpress.com. The bigger the file size the bigger we can print it.

Above, Don Cameron sent in this photo of a turkey looking in the walkout door of his Haliburton home. On the inside a cat is looking at the turkey. As the turkey moved toward the cat, she took off at about 100 kilometres per hour, Cameron said. At left, Guenter Horst sent in this photo of a deer in his backyard.

Friends remember Lee Blair

Jenn Watt
Editor

Humble, honest, nature-loving – the traits associated with the late Lee Blair are grounded in the very earth he spent his life moving.

Blair died at age 80 on Feb. 12 at a hospital in London, Ont., but as his obituary reads, his heart was always in the Highlands.

Known for a life spent literally building Haliburton County with his company Blair Sand and Gravel, he had a connection to most of the area's people and places.

"He was a great individual who was almost a household word in Haliburton," said Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey.

"He probably did more driveways and septs and dug more basements than anybody," he said.

Blair's trucks were, and still are, prolific around the county – even though he sold the business in 1993.

"Our families go back," said Barry Boice, who now owns Blair Sand and Gravel. "My grandfather sold International Trucks way back for years and years and Lee's father bought trucks off of him."

Boice had been running his excavating company for a couple of years before buying Blair's company. He kept the name because of the good reputation it brought.

"He was one of the first guys to take his business to another level," said Boice. "Lots of guys had a truck or a dozer. Well, Lee went the extra steps and ended up having quite a few people working for him."

One of the most well-known projects Blair was involved with was building the Pinestone's golf course.

Gary Warburton worked for him at the time and remembers Blair as a kind, giving person with a deep love for animals.

"He was a great guy. A super guy. He was very kind and very honest," he said.

Warburton has a list of stories detailing Blair's love of animals, including putting off construction to allow baby robins to hatch in a nest built in a boom; stopping a gravel truck on the road to rescue baby groundhogs and providing homes for area raccoons.

"I was in the garage about 20 years ago greasing one of his trucks and a raccoon came in the garage," Warburton remembers. "I came out and said, 'a damn raccoon is in the garage,' and he said, 'Oh, that's Jerry. Leave him alone. He's got a bed upstairs.'"

Longtime friend Deano Pearsall spoke at Blair's funeral on Feb. 15, adding several more anecdotes about wildlife.

"Lee rarely showed extremes of emotion, except when it came to animals," Pearsall wrote in his speech. "Every deer hunting season, Lee got anxious – putting up signs, checking for poachers, talking to his favourite deer friends telling them to stay safe."

Above all, said Pearsall, Blair's priorities were first his family – wife Marie and daughter Marnie.

"A committed family man," Blair was a devoted husband and loving father, Pearsall said.

"Whenever Lee and a friend parted after a visit, Lee rarely said goodbye," Pearsall said, "Instead of goodbye, Lee's usual parting ... was 'have a care now.' My tribute to Lee ends with his own sincere friendly words – 'have a care now.'"



Lee Blair was a household name in Haliburton largely because of his ubiquitous business – Blair Sand and Gravel. He was known for his kindness, his love of animals and all things outdoors. He passed away earlier this month at age 80.

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Jake Heyblom Special to the Echo

Chamber of Commerce Business and Community Achievement Awards winners assembled in the Pinestone for a group photo following the ceremony Feb. 22. Bottom row from left, Alan Gordon of RPM; Alex Bell of the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association; Dale Bull of TD Mortgage; Laura Roberts of Heat Line. Middle row from left, Matthew Phillips of Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre; Lorne McNeil of McBain Quarries; Matt Roberts of Heat Line; Brent Heise of Heat Line. Back row from left, Trevor Chaulk of Chaulk Woodworking; Max Ward of the Minden Food Bank; Bill Gliddon, Highlander of the Year. Missing from the photo is Steve McLean from Canadian Tire. Photos courtesy of the Chamber of Commerce

Awards handed out from amongst strong pool of nominees

from page 1

music and much of his time in Haliburton has been spent fostering a love of melody.

"From his early years as a student of music to over half a century as choir master at St. George's Anglican Church to his 35 years sharing his love of music as an instructor in the Haliburton County school system, music has always been central to Bill Gliddon's life.

"He was a producer and director of numerous musicals at the high school during his tenure as the music teacher where he would cast 50 and more to bring the magic of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas to life. He inspired young students to consider a career in music and for many others instilled an appreciation for music in all its forms. A lifelong resident of Haliburton, Bill is an enthusiastic supporter of the performing arts, especially if music is involved," said Jaycock.

Accepting the honour, Gliddon said very little, except to recognize the work of his fellow nominees.

"All the nominees for Highlander of the Year, I feel I'm representing them because they've all won. We all share the values of community service. And so they're all winners and I'm accepting this on their behalf," he said.

Two other awards recognized the community side of the ceremony – the Warden's Award and the Not-for-Profit of the Year Award. Warden Dave Burton chose the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association as this year's recipient.

"It was founded in 1992 and [is] committed to sustainable management of our natural resources, our lakes. I do feel our lakes are one of our best assets we have in Haliburton County. I have to say ... there's something fishy going on in Haliburton Highlands," Burton said.

He applauded the HHOA for its fish hatchery and the 500,000 fish it has stocked in county lakes over the years, as well as its deer feeding program and kids programming among other things.



Alex Bell accepted the award on behalf of the organization.

"It's very rewarding to know our efforts to sustain and promote fishing and tourism in the Haliburton Highlands is appreciated," he said.

Not-for-Profit of the Year went to the Minden Food Bank for its continuing service to those in need across the county – it works with the Wilberforce and Cardiff food banks alongside its own – and in particular its role in assisting victims of April's flooding in Minden.

"The food bank opened its doors seven days a week during the crisis for those impacted by the flood, organized clothing and furniture drives and supplied food to a community kitchen that served hot meals daily to those out of their homes and those assisting with the recovery," said Jaycock.

There was a strong pool of nominees for this year's business awards, with each category offering up at least four (sometimes as many as 11) candidates.

The Business Achievement Award went to Heat Line Corporation, which makes heating cables and freeze-protected water pipes, serving clients such as the United States

government.

Jaycock said the company had increased its production by 20 per cent in the last year and has grown internationally.

The Customer First Award went to Dale Bull of TD Mortgage. "She's truly committed to the clients that she services, teaching those that are new through to full and efficient service for the most seasoned of home owners," Jaycock said. Bull is also the chairwoman of the Hike for Hospice committee and serves on the Haliburton County Development Corporation board.

Entrepreneur of the Year was given to Alan Gordon, owner of RPM marine in Haliburton. "Although RPM was a winner last year in the New Business category, the further progress achieved by Mr. Gordon in 2013 is worthy of recognition. The investment of time and money in new projects and contribution to the economy through job growth is testament to Mr. Gordon's entrepreneurial efforts," said Jaycock.

Gordon's "hands-on" style in his businesses along with his advisory work with other businesses was lauded.

McBain Quarries took home the Innovation and Creativity Award for their business,

Highlander of the Year Bill Gliddon, right, was given his award by sponsor John McDonald at the awards celebration at the Pinestone on Feb. 22.

Jake Heyblom
Special to the Echo

which sells precision-cut multi-coloured granite.

Following the purchase of a new \$250,000 precision-cut saw, "McBain Quarries has strategically positioned themselves for significant growth of not only sales, but employees. Currently, with an eight-person team, they expect employee growth of 25 to 30 per cent per year," said Jaycock.

New Business of the Year went to Canadian Tire. Canadian Tire has worked to keep business in the community and has provided a significant amount of employment, Jaycock told the crowd.

"Starting a new business is lots of hours, but the ownership team has also committed themselves to the community through their involvement with various organizations and committees and in their time involved in their business," he said.

The Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre was given the Tourism and Hospitality Award.

"Pinestone's new management team has not only focused on rebuilding the ties to local residents and businesses, they've also spent a great deal of time and resources on nurturing external tourism and event opportunities," said Jaycock.

Also noted was the resort's successful Wednesday wing night, a 50 per cent increase in wedding bookings and its golf tournament for Minden flood relief.

Chaulk Woodworking was the winner of the Skilled Trades and Industry Award for improving their business, introducing new products and growing the company despite being displaced by floodwaters last April.

"Not only did they soldier through the flood of Minden, they also improved sales, redesigned some of their products and have put resources into upgrading their equipment and training," Jaycock said.

As always, the evening was peppered with topical jokes by Jaycock, who managed to find humour in everything from the Trent-Severn Waterway to Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey.

HDA dances for dollars

Chad Ingram
Staff reporter

Students from the Haliburton Dance Academy did an extra special number on Feb. 22, dancing and exercising for nearly eight hours in a dance-athon fundraiser.

Thirty-five of the dance school's students gathered pledges to help them with their competition fees, donating 10 per cent of their proceeds for Food for Kids.

The night included dance, hula-

hooping, yoga, cheering, tumbling, lyrical dance and zumba and saw a number of guest instructors.

HDA director Chyna Schell said she plans to make the event an annual one and looks forward to next year's being held at the school's new home in the former Victoria Street school, now owned by Community Living.

The academy will make the move in June to the building's third floor.

"It has high ceilings, beautiful, natural light," Schell said, excitedly.

For more information, visit www.haliburtondanceacademy.com.



Students from Haliburton Dance Academy held a dance-athon to raise funds for competition fees and Food for Kids on Feb. 22.

Photos by
Chad Ingram

**INSIDE
TODAY'S
ECHO >**

**HHSS
Hockey**
Boys' team
lives up to
top billing.

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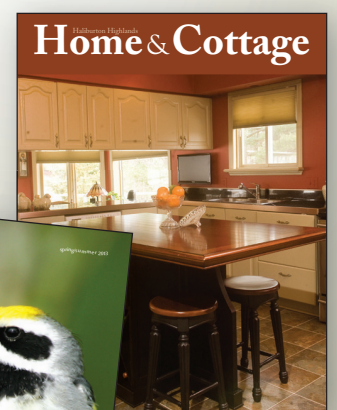
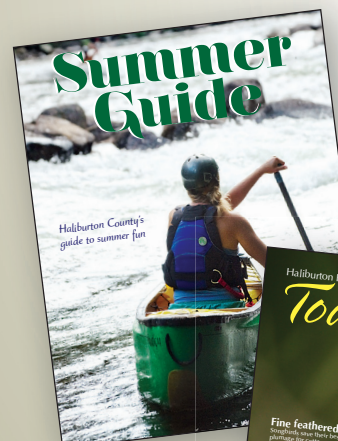
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High Cs in the Highlands

Opera: Not a word you would normally associate with cottage country. But in the Haliburton Highlands, professional opera performances are a regular part of each summer.

Each August, those escaping the city to their cottage and the lucky ones who make the Highlands their permanent home, have access to some of the most outstanding opera talent in Canada by attending any presentation of the Highlands Opera Studio.

General director Valerie Kuinka and artistic director Richard Margison have just finished listening to approximately 150 singers in Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Montreal and New York.

The level of auditionees is extremely high, the most difficult part of the process being deciding which highly qualified singers get into a program with limited space.

The talent that Kuinka and Margison have seen in the past few months bodes well for a season that features Donizetti's *Rita* and Puccini's *Tosca*.

Audiences last year were mesmerized by the music of the classic Opera *La Traviata* – complete with beautiful costumes and sets and amazing vocal performances in an intimate theatre setting of the North Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton.

As each performance concludes, patrons will have a chance to meet the singers and talk to them about the music and the production.

There are other performance options available this summer for those who wish to discover, perhaps for the first time, the power of the unamplified human voice; there are public master classes in which world renowned vocal coaches demonstrate how a wonderful performance can be made even better.

It is fascinating to watch the singers respond to the coach and to experience how vocal music is taught at this advanced level. These sessions would be valuable for anyone considering a singing career or even choir directors and members.

Each season also offers two Operatic Highlights Concerts and an Alumni Concert in which young professionals reprise some of the world's favourite operatic compositions.

Each concert features a different program.

Come and hear these concerts; you will be surprised by how much opera music you actually know through commercials and the radio.

A fundraising concert featuring Canadian tenor Richard Margison and international stars from a variety of musical genres is a highlight of the summer.

Opera of course is featured, but quality jazz and folk music weaves its way through the evening as well.

The concert, Richard Margison and Friends, is the fundraiser of the operatic season in cottage country and includes performances from the professional consultants providing instruction for the program.

The Highlands Opera Studio has been host to performances by many young singers who have now gone on to careers on the international stage. Come out to a performance and have the chance to say that you were one of the first people to hear that certain young singer perform. It is a chance of a lifetime. And it's right here in Haliburton.

For more information about the Highlands Opera Studio visit www.highlandsooperastudio.com or the Facebook page or email info@highlandsooperastudio.com.



John Martens Special to the Echo

Andrew Love and Lesley Bouza perform in 2012's *Magic Flute*.



Luiza Zjuleva and Adam Luther play two lovers in the 2013 production of *La Traviata*.



From left, Erica Iris, Erin Lawson, Tracy Cantin and Lisa di Maria in the 2011 production of *Falstaff*.

com.

The Highlands Opera Studio can only continue with the generous donations from its corporate sponsors and individual donors.

Tax deductible donations are appreciated and can be

mailed to Highlands Opera Studio, PO Box 1440, Haliburton, ON, K0M 1S0. Tickets for any of this season's performances can be purchased at www.highlandsummerfestival.on.ca.



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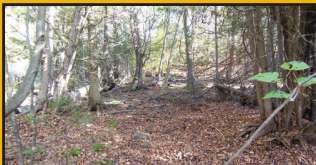


Denise LeBlanc*
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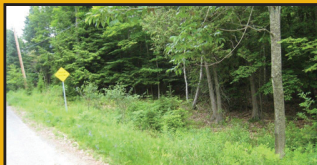
Spectacular Acreage \$135,000

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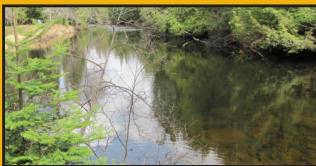
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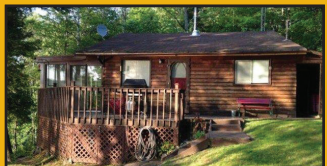
Building Lot Close to Town \$29,999

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- Ed Gibbons 286-2138 x 28



Haliburton Starter \$124,900

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 - Features new shingles & newer oil furnace
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- Andrew Hodgson 286-2138 x 29



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 - New granite hearth
 - Easy municipal year round access
- Susanne James & Andy Mosher 457-2128 x 33



Davis Lake \$299,900

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 - Bunkie + garage
 - Level lot, sand beach, dock
 - Big lake view
- Valerie Kulla 286-2138



Minden Home \$159,900

- 3 bdrm, 1 1/2 baths & mudroom
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 - Lg kitchen/dining & living rooms
 - Sunroom and private yard
- Denise LeBlanc 286-2138 x 23



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- David Lee 286-2138 x 27



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 - Level access; trails; 1.5 km to 12 Mile Lk boat launch
- Gary Moffatt 457-2128 x 36



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 - Large basement with own entrance
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 - Great Opportunity! Don't miss out!
- Erin Nicholls 457-2128 x 34



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Excellent Opportunity on Halls Lake \$299,900

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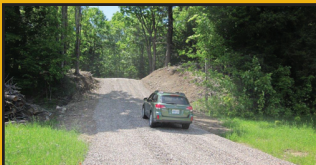
Great Starter Home \$119,900

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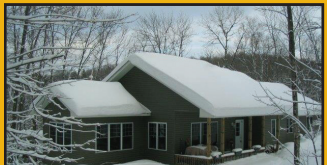
Halls Lake Beauty \$649,900

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 - Boathouse and gazebo at waterfront
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- Tom Wilkinson 286-2138 x 25



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- Andrea Wilson 457-2128 x 25



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Paige Hough, 7, was all smiles when her dad, Al Hough, a former World Cup bobsled competitor with Canada One brought in a two-man sled to Stuart Baker Elementary School as part of a show and tell surprise to coincide with the Olympics. **Darren Lum** Staff



Former World Cup bobsledder Al Hough, left, stands with Stuart Baker Elementary School teachers Stephanie Metzger and Jim Hopkins, who show off their best form, wearing bobsled clothing on Friday, Feb. 21. Hough brought in a two-man sled to the school as part of a show and tell surprise to coincide with the Olympics. Due to bus cancellations, smaller student groups from SBES and neighbouring J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School came to see the bobsled from Ontario Bobsleigh.

Sledder brings inspiration to SBES

Darren Lum
Staff reporter

It was fitting a bobsled was brought to Stuart Baker Elementary School just days after Canadians Kaillie Humphries and Heather Moyse won gold in the two-man bobsled event at the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

Former brakeman for the four-man Canada One bobsled team, Al Hough said he did it for his daughter and her peers.

"My daughter is at Stuart Baker. She's loving the Olympics ... I thought it would be nice for the school to see a real bobsled," he said.

He said he pulled "a few strings" to bring the two-man bobsled, known as the "Sochi sled." This sled was used in a few World Cup events in the late-1980s and 1990s and came courtesy of Ontario Bobsleigh.

Despite school bus cancellations, Hough was still excited, like the handful of students who came to see the bobsled in the school's gymnasium.

He showed video footage of bobsledding and let the children sit in the sled.

Hough relished his 2003-2004 World Cup year competing with the legendary Canadian driver Pierre Lueders, who he describes as intense and meticulous. That year Canada One went on to win the World Cup championship.

Hough, who has a million stories, is proud about how he made the Canada One team at 39 and the memories of life as a bobsledder.

Being treated like "a real athlete" during his winning season, he said, was something he'll never forget. In Europe, he said, bobsledders are treated like stars, getting asked for autographs and even having fans follow them to every race.

The pace in which he tells his stories is energizing. It matches the description of the work he needed to

make the team more than a decade ago.

The early morning workouts followed by a 12-hour workday as a plumber then ending with track work at York University until it closed close to 10 p.m. every day. Glory wasn't his goal. It was the knowledge of the efforts and dedication behind it all that drove him in bobsled and as a national track athlete, which included discus and decathlon.

Involved with track since 17 (with a momentary hiatus between his mid-20s and mid-30s), he remained with the bobsled program until 2006.

Although he missed making the 2006 Winter Games in Turin, Italy when he broke two toes on his right foot, he has no regrets and is proud of everything he accomplished.

After all he and his wife Lori Sharp ended up going on a Costa Rican trip instead.

It led to a great time and the conception of his daughter Paige.

Lady Hawks position for Central Ontario championship

Darren Lum
Staff reporter

A trip to the Central Ontario Secondary School Athletics (COSSA) championships is assured for the girls' Red Hawks Hockey team after a Kawartha high school girls' hockey league quarter-final 2-1 win over Cobourg St. Mary's.

With the semi-finals slated for this Wednesday in Cobourg, the Hawks are setting their sights on securing an

easier COSSA road with a win over the south's first place team, Cobourg West.

Hawks coach Dan Marsden said a win does more than guarantee a trip to the Kawartha final, but also means the top AA seed at COSSA.

A loss against Cobourg West combined with a Holy Cross Hurricanes semi-final loss against AAA St. Peter's Saints would set up a battle for the second place AA seed at COSSA.

The Hawks and Hurricanes would play for the second AA

seed to COSSA.

However if HHSS loses and Holy Cross wins then the Hurricanes would play Cobourg West for top AA seeding and the Red Hawks would play the St. Pete's for AAA seeding. The top two seeds advance for AA and AAA move onto COSSA.

Becoming the second AAA seed is a scenario, Marsden said, that doesn't suit his squad.

The COSSA championships are organized into AAA and AA. It is scheduled for March 3 in Peterborough.



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Sports

Living up to the Kawartha top billing

Darren Lum

Staff reporter

Going into the playoffs the Red Hawks were the team to beat.

As the top seed in the division one Kawartha High School Hockey League, the Hawks proved to be the standard, as they showcased their superiority in pace, moving the puck and executing when it matters.

Regardless of the win or a tie scenario for the boys' Red Hawks hockey team, they didn't take any chances beating the Thomas A. Stewart Secondary Griffins to the tune of 4-2 in front of a partisan crowd on Wednesday in Haliburton.

The win gives the Hawks a semi-final berth, which will be hosted by Haliburton and Minden at 10 a.m. on Thursday. The opponent is undecided, but could be Fenelon Falls Secondary School, Crestwood Secondary School or Lindsay Collegiate Vocational Institute. The Kawartha Championship will feature the semi-final winners at 2:30 p.m. at the A.J. LaRue Arena.

This was the Hawks' second win of the two-game quarterfinals against the Griffins. The day before the Hawks beat division two's top seed Griffins 7-5 in Peterborough.

HHSS made short work of the Griffins, jumping to a 3-0 lead in the first period.

The scoring was led by an opportunistic goal by Red Hawks forward Stuart Chaulk, who scored on a gaping net when a puck behind the net came out front with Griffins' goalie Jonathon Thain turned around.

Hawks coach Ron Yake said it all helps, but the big lead did little to alleviate his nerves in the third.

"I always get excited in third periods. I know that no lead is a comfortable lead," he said, referring to the Toronto Maple Leafs' loss to the Bruins last year. "Nothing is ever secure in hockey games. So four goals was a nice comfortable lead, but, yeah, I was a little bit nervous."

He was quick to point out that was the only exception to the team's other "good" goals.

Special teams have been the focus for the team and it proved invaluable for the proverbial back-breaker.

Hawks player Tanner Hamilton not only killed the Griffins' powerplay, but also robbed the visitors of any momentum when he deked through a pair of defenders and flipped the puck in the net for a highlight reel short-hander and 2-0 lead.

"Our penalty kill has been good. Over the season it has improved a lot. We had some good powerplay opportunities as well. It was a good effort on the penalty kill. There were certainly lots of special teams today," he said.

In particular, Red Hawks Curtis Ballantyne's and Jake Harrison's tireless pursuit of the puck figured strongly.

With a few minutes left in the second, Hawks forward Tyler Barry all but put away the Griffins with his second goal of the night.

The visitors proved they could skate with the home team except for a lack of finish and were stifled by the excellent Hawks defence led by mobile Chris Hall.



Darren Lum Staff

Winger Barry and his linemates Nate Feir, at centre, and Jake Bursey on wing had a solid game playing regularly against the Griffins' top line.

Yake was pleased at how they not only accounted for two goals, but also virtually shut down the opposition.

The solid first period for the Hawks and two disallowed goals figured prominently.

One to a delayed offside in the first and another when Griffins forward Jesse Douglas managed to score, but only after time ended in the second.

"Timing is everything in life and maybe in hockey so that was a nice buzzer," Yake said.

Braydon Frost made the start and played well, Yake said.

"Braydon had a great game. He made some key stops," he said.

Frost will get the call again, as Jordan Hamilton is unavailable.

Hawks notes:

Tyler Barry finished with two goals; Stuart Chaulk, one goal; Tanner Hamilton, one goal; Jake Bursey, two assists and Nate Feir, one assist.

Red Hawks winger Jake Bursey, left, moves past a defender during the quarter-final playoffs.

Darren Lum Staff

Red Hawks player Tanner Hamilton, left, who finished with a goal, shields the puck from a defender during the quarter-final playoffs against the Thomas A. Stewart Secondary Griffins at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton on Wednesday, Feb. 19. The Hawks won 4-2 a day after beating the Griffins 7-5 in the first of two quarter final games.





Darren Lum Staff

The Red Hawks Nordic team of McKenzie Hill, left, and Christine Bishop proved they belong with the province's best, coming in sixth and fourth respectively to earn their OFSAA berth. The Hawks will travel to Timmins to compete at the all-provincials held from Feb. 25 to 26.

Nordic Hawks revel in achievement

Darren Lum
Staff reporter

The entire Red Hawks Nordic team is ecstatic about their Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations championship berth.

Fifth year student McKenzie Hill finished in sixth place for senior girls while teammate Grade 10 Christine Bishop finished in fourth place for junior girls at the Central Ontario Secondary School Athletics championships at Hardwood Hills to punch their ticket to the all-provincials from Feb. 25 to 26 in Timmins.

Both are happy about the opportunity and feel satisfied about making the most of it after last year's winter sports season was wiped out by the labour dispute.

Hill, who is going to her sixth OFSAA championship, is still finding joy in the achievement and is realistic about her chances.

"There's a lot of great skiers so you just want to fin-

ish," she said.

She has been to OFSAA for field hockey twice, snowboarding twice and Nordic in the team category. This is her first individual berth to the senior girls skate discipline.

This year Hill and Bishop have also made the all-provincials in snowboarding and will leave Timmins to compete at the Mansfield Ski Club on Thursday, Feb. 27.

The fifth year student was greatly motivated this season.

"It's pretty great because we didn't get to do any winter sports last year. We kind of felt robbed," she said.

First time OFSAA competitor Bishop was driven from the start of the season to make the all-provincials.

"I'm really excited. I'm just happy I made it," she said. "I'm really going to go just to ski. I've never been to an OFSAA before. This is all going to be new," she said.

Contributing factors, they said, included the favourable conditions here in the Highlands with more snow to enable more practice and mileage.

They started land training in November and then racked up the miles at local ski trails such as Glebe Park, minutes from the high school.

Although past teams were larger, the two didn't let that stop them.

They used it to push each other, making sure one another came to practice or made up any absence with another practice session. The support for each other is similar to how two sisters behave with each other, laughing and poking fun.

Their coach Jennifer Paton characterized the pair as athletic and coordinated, helped in part by their dance background. She adds they are positive, coachable and have fun together.

"They've been totally committed since November. There was no complaining about the team being small. There was clearly a goal of making OFSAA," she said, adding the team had to "block book" their accommodation in advance.

"They've achieved their goal."

Pheaton headed to OFSAA for wrestling

Carmen Galea
Special to the *Echo*

Wednesday, Feb. 19, four wrestlers from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School travelled to Cobourg to compete in the COSSA Wrestling Championship. The group of junior

wrestlers fared well in their first championship.

Matt Pheaton, 15, with hard work and determination landed second in the men's 51 kg weight class. He will be continuing on to OFSSA Wrestling Championship held in Brampton in two weeks (March 4 - 6). "It will be a great experience for Matt in his Grade 10 year," said coach Dan Fockler.

Sonya Flatman, 14, earned fourth in the women's 51 kg

weight class after two great wins. James McEathron, 14, in the 44 kg weight class got fifth with a great effort and attitude. Carmen Galea, 14, placed fifth in the 57.5 kg weight class with one win.

"Great results of for a young team," said Fockler.

The wrestling season will come to an end after OFSAA. Good luck to Matt at the championship!

Haliburton youth curlers rock Fenelon Falls

On Saturday, Feb. 15, three Haliburton youth curling teams travelled to Fenelon Falls for a fun bonspiel, with an emphasis on the word fun. All three teams experienced one win and one loss, but most importantly, they all had a lot of fun. Camaraderie was the focus as the opposing teams shared lunch and played organized games together in between matches. As a parent it was extremely refreshing to see the importance of friendship and working together with the opposing teams as the focal point, not to mention listening to all parents cheering on good shots, regardless of who made it. I have never thought of curling as a nail-biting sport, but wow, we were all sitting on the edge of our seats.

The next bonspiel these young curlers will be participating in will be in Gravenhurst from April 2 to 6. In this bonspiel 72 teams from across Ontario will gather and play. Much thanks goes out to the Haliburton Curling Club and their dedicated volunteers. Not only do they subsidize the cost for the sport so that these young curlers have the opportunity to play, they emphasize the importance of supporting each other, good communication skills, courtesy and etiquette.

Submitted by Cynthia Mitchell



The mixed curling team Jonah Aldom, left, Alan Wheeler, coach Bob MacNaull, Ania Smolen and Micah Aldom was one of three Haliburton youth curling teams to travel to Fenelon Falls for a fun bonspiel on Saturday, Feb. 15. The next bonspiel these young curlers will be participating in will be in Gravenhurst from April 2 to 6. There will be 72 teams from across Ontario competing at this bonspiel. Submitted



The boys' curling team Glenn Graham, left, Brian Wheeler, coach Ron Draper, Brayden Warburton and Chris Draper was one of three Haliburton youth curling teams to travel to Fenelon Falls for a fun bonspiel on Saturday, Feb. 15.



The girls' curling team of Jessica Byers, Lena Haase, with coach Terry Lawrence, Emma Casey and Mackenzie Tidey was one of three Haliburton Youth Curling teams to travel to Fenelon Falls.



The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce wishes to thank everyone who participated in this year's Business & Community Achievement Awards.

Congratulations to all of our nominees and award recipients!

Business Achievement Award

Sponsored by The Benefits Coach

Recipient: Heat Line Corporation

Nominees: Baked & Batted, Chaulk Woodworking, David Kay Lawn Care & Property Maintenance, Generator Solution, Pinestone Resprt & Conference Centre, Todd's Independent, WAI Products

Customer First Award

Sponsored by Canadian Tire

Recipient: Dale Bull/TD Mortgage

Nominees: Baked and Battered, Gordon A Monk Funeral Home, Haliburton Outdoor Equipment, Haliburton Yoga, Highland Services Home Maintenance & Repair, Modern Electric, Pinestone Resort & Conference Centre, Village Court Donuts & Café, WRD Cottage Rental Agency

Entrepreneur of the Year

Sponsored by Patient News

Recipient: Alan Gordon

Nominees: Christoph Carl, Craig Gordon & Colby Marcellus, Brandi Hewson, Meghan Reid

Innovation and Creativity Award

Sponsored by Haliburton County Development Corp.

Recipient: McBain Quarries

Nominees: Chaulk Woodworking, SIRCH Community Services, Up River Trading Co, VirtualAlly, WAI Products, Wilberforce Service Centre

New Business Award

Sponsored by Trophy Property Corp.

Recipient: Canadian Tire

Nominees: Momma G's Tea, Russel Red Guest House, Tek Jewellers

Not-for-Profit of the Year

Sponsored by The Bank of Montreal

Recipient: Minden Food Bank

Nominees: Abbey Gardens, Community Care Haliburton County, Community Living Haliburton County, Haliburton ATV Association, Haliburton County Farmer's Market, Haliburton County Historical Society, Minden Food Bank, Point in Time, Rotary Club of Haliburton, SIRCH Community Services, Volunteer Dental Outreach

Skilled Trades & Industry

Sponsored by Walker's Heating & Cooling Systems

Recipient: Chaulk Woodworking

Nominees: Coty Electric, Highland Park Homes, McBain Quarries, Northern Timberhouse, Petrini Construction, Rod Sisson Contractor

Tourism & Hospitality

Sponsored by Ontario's Highland Tourism Organization

Recipient: Pinestone Resort & Conference Centre

Nominees: Haliburton Highlands Museum, Momma G's Tea, Rhubarb Restaurant, Sir Sam's Ski and Bike, Up River Trading Co., WRD Cottage Rental Agency, Yours Outdoors

Warden's Award

Sponsored by The County of Haliburton

Recipient: Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association

Highlander of the Year

Sponsored by Lakeview Motel

Recipient: Bill Gliddon

Nominees: Dave Allen, Jim Blake, Shawn Chamberlain, Bill Gliddon, Bill Kerr, Lee & Malcolm MacLean, Barrie Martin, Ted Scholtes, Lynda Shadbolt, Bob Stinson, Eric Thompson

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We would like to thank all applicants in advance and advise that only those selected for an interview will be contacted. All information is collected solely for the purpose of job selection under the provisions of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

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There's something in Highland Storm's water

Hard to believe that four of the Highland Storm teams have advanced to the all Ontario semi-finals. Atom As and Bantam As are playing Listowel, Pee wee As are playing Penetang and Midget AEs are playing Collingwood.

Bantams eliminate Ennismore

Well after losing Game 1 the Smolen Dentistry came back and won the next three games to eliminate the Ennismore Eagles. Storm played Game 3 in Minden on Friday night and won 6-3. Storm had some solid goal-tending from Josh Bell-fleur. Storms Chase Burden scored a hat trick and Paydon Miscio, Nolan Flood and Kyle Cooper scored one each. Assists went to Jake Bishop and Owen Smitty Smith with two, and Mark Saville with one. Game 2 was in Ennismore Saturday night and Storm didn't take long to give their fans something to cheer about as Ethan Keefer once again fired a bullet pass the Eagles' goalie just 25 seconds into the game. Assists went to Chase Burden and Chris Thompson. Then the teams battled it out with both goaltenders making some big saves until Matt Wilbee fired a slapshot top shelf to put them up 2-0 assisted by Chase Burden to end the second. Then with 3:21 left Wilbee scored his second of the game unassisted.

Nolan Flood finished off the game and series with an empty net goal assisted by Owen Smitty Smith and Jake Bishop at the 1:05 mark. Parker Smolen got a well deserved shutout. Storm now take on Listowel in the OMHA semi-finals and then the winner will play Paris or Mount Brydges for the OMHA all

Ontario finals. Schedule unknown at press time.
Submitted by Craig Smith

Atom A dominates game

After a late start to our game on Friday night due to a referee mix up the boys got down to business and Joe Boice put us on the map at the seven-minute mark in the first period. Then with 3:01 to go in the first Cody Martin popped in a nice one giving the Pepper Mill Atom A team a 2-0 lead against Gana-noque. The first period flew by and then Joe Boice and Alex Little made a great play to give us a 3-0 lead early in the second period. The third period just got started and quietly Brenden Newhook assisted by Jake Sisson slid in another to give us a 4-0 lead; 13 seconds later Joe Boice made it 5-0 and a minute after that Alex Little made it 6-0. The boys were on fire! Joe Boice went on to score twice more making the final score 8-0 for the Storm. Thanks to our strong defence team of Cole Prentice, Colin Glecoff and Aaron Bellefleur the Gananoque Islanders weren't able to score one on our awesome goalie Dylan Keefer.

That finished off the quarter finals and now we are moving onto the semi-finals between us and Listowel. So we will keep you posted on the home games, please come out and cheer them on as the more support the better! Thanks to all those who came and watched the game we really appreciate your encouragement.

Submitted by Kathy Martin

Curl for Care raises cash for HHHS

The sixth annual Curl for Care bonspiel Feb. 22 raised about \$3,500 for the Haliburton Highlands Palliative Centre, part of Haliburton Highlands Health Services.

Over the course of the six years, it has raised more than \$22,000. The Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation thanks Steve and Michelle Todd of Todd's Independent for sponsoring the event.

Thanks also go to Tom Merriman, Bob and Ann MacNaull, Don Popple of Curry Chevrolet and Wayne Hussey.



Front Line Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in assisting victims in a supportive role, volunteer applications are now being accepted for victim service training. As a trained victim service provider you will work as part of a volunteer team by responding immediately to victims of crime and/or tragic circumstance in The City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County.

Please contact us at:

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Or Email us at:

vcars@nexicom.net

to obtain an application or for further information regarding the position requirements.



This yellow team had lots of its rocks in the house during the Curl for Care bonspiel, a fundraiser for the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, at the Haliburton Curling Club on Feb. 22

Chad Ingram Staff



Go Team Canada

Curling enthusiasts came out to the Haliburton Curling Club on Feb. 20 to cheer on Team Canada's women's curling team as they defeated Sweden for the gold medal.

Jenn Watt Staff

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Snow Shuffle attracts 150

West Guilford

Eleanor Cooper 754-2278

West Guilford continued to cheer on the Canadian Olympic team not only because of the national prize it could win, but because of Matt Duchene. Excitement mounts as the games continue!

Susan Norcross is once again running for the position of councillor for our Ward 4, which she has ably represented since first elected last term.

Abbey Gardens continues to make the news with the prospective business of Haliburton Highlands Brewing due to the initiative of Michael and Jewelle Scheidel-Webb who feel that the brewery is a good fit with Abbey Gardens.

Cooking classes are being conducted these weeks at Abbey Gardens. Last week it was cooking chicken under the expertise of Jim Vidocz who has planned other demonstrations. Details to follow. Call 705-754-4769.

Our deepest sympathy to Cathy Griffin whose father Grant Montgomery died on Feb. 19.

Snow shuffle had great weather this year, with registration showing over 150 participants at 9 a.m. on Feb. 22. Cathy Lodge won the poker run with three eights. Her prize: \$1,550. Congratulations,

Cathy!

Dinner and dance were well attended with the popular Jamie Bacon as DJ. Thanks to all who worked behind the scenes to make all this happen.

This year was the 15th anniversary of the Kelly Shires Breast Cancer Snow Run at Hidden Valley in Huntsville. This was Liz Jessemann's 12th year as participant. It was also the second year for Dagmar Boettcher to participate.

With the help of many friends, family and neighbours, people who bought the toy bunnies and ribbons made by Liz (donated by Vista Signs) as well as the work of Dagmar, brought the total to \$400,000. All funds go to the women who need financial assistance as they go through the term of this disease. Liz estimated very close to the amount raised. Because this is a volunteer foundation, 82 per cent of the funds go to help various needs of these women. It is amazing that since nine years ago when Kelly lost her battle, the ride carries on as her legacy. The dedication and passion of all involved is shown in the successful event that creates so much emotion and spirit. Thanks to all who donated. Already participants look forward to next year.

Euchre on Feb. 19 showed the following scores: high – Alice Jones and John Kerr; low – Dianne MacDonick and Bert Craig; most lone hands – Liz Jessemann and Perry Morrison.

Sochi Olympics have educated and inspired

Wilberforce

Hilda Clark 448-2018

They are over. The 2014 Winter Olympics, the Sochi games are over. The games played the medals presented. The opening and closing ceremonies gave the world a glimpse of the history, the arts and culture of Russia. Loved the inclusion of ballet for which it is known. Two weeks of competition in winter sports by the best athletes in the world.

And thanks to marvellous technology people interested in winter sports in most parts of the world were involved if only as spectators. Here we have known hockey, curling, figure skating and skiing forever it seems. And now thanks to our national network CBC TV and radio to which many have been glued for live and rerun games we can discuss halfpipe, Nordic combined, parallel slalom snowboarding, freestyle ski-cross and biathlons with enthusiasm. The speed and fearlessness of the luge and bobsleigh teams was admired. Amazing skill and beauty in figure skating was there in abundance and endurance and excellence were evident in all participants.

Coming home with Canadians are many well earned, well deserved medals. None more so than that gold one that hangs around the neck of Matt Duchene. Congratulations to this young Olympian. Lots of dedication and hard work has led to that achievement. Though many in the Highlands have not met Matt in person, all are proud of him.

What joy was felt as our women's and men's teams won gold in both curling and hockey, two games so dear to our hearts.

Champion women carrying the Maple Leaf flag at both the opening and closing ceremonies.

What colour and excitement these winter games have brought to the lives of Canadians for the past two weeks. We may just get through this old fashioned winter yet. Maybe we should get out the skates or skis. Or even throw a rock or two.

And here in the Highlands we have another winner too. A deserving generous gentleman has been recognized for his many contributions to his community. Bill Gliddon has been named Highlander of the Year. Congratulations, Bill.

Though officially retired from the formal education system, Bill continues to educate. He leads his choir at St. George's Haliburton and encourages many to learn, to grow and share their talents especially in musical endeavours. Bill has this past year found a new and exciting way to share his talents and tremendous knowledge about classical music. Just tune in to Canoe FM on Sunday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. When among all the other helpful things Bill does quietly for many people does he find time to prepare for that show every week?

And now too we in Wilberforce are part of his family. He plays the organ at St. Margaret's at least once a month. Drop by for the 11:15 a.m. service on Sundays. His prelude and closing selection are always inspiring. Just last Sunday he was there and brought Glenda and Jim Burke to join him in a trio that spoke of love. That too was the theme of the sermon that Glenda delivered.

If this column seems to lack local news perhaps it is because most have been home with the games. Call me with your news.

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Report boils down ‘food literacy’ challenges

There is plenty to digest in a new health unit report that looks at how young people can improve their “food literacy” skills so they are better able to prepare healthy meals.

The newly released *Making Something Out of Nothing: Food Literacy for Life* report finds many local youth, and others across Ontario, have a good understanding of food basics and an appetite to learn more skills. However, the report notes that a youth’s knowledge, experience, planning, time, income, housing and access to cooking facilities can affect their skills in the kitchen and the types of food they prepare for meals. The report also provides recommendations on how health units, schools and community groups can help youth improve their food literacy skills in order to overcome the appeal of eating processed “convenience” foods that are readily available, more expensive and often unhealthy.

“We often think of literacy skills in school,

but literacy in the kitchen is just as important,” says Elsie Azevedo, co-author of the report and a registered dietitian with the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit. “Food literacy boils down to young people having the skills, understanding, confidence and supports in place to make healthy and tasty meals for themselves and their families. Food literacy can include understanding food labels, following recipes, or having the time, income and motivation to make healthy meals.”

Through funding from Public Health Ontario, the HKPR District Health Unit partnered with seven other Ontario health units to conduct the research. In-depth interviews were conducted with 85 young people in Northumberland County, City of Kawartha Lakes, Chatham-Kent, Sudbury, London, Windsor, Hamilton and the Kitchener-Waterloo area. Participants were either teens aged 16 to 19, or young parents and pregnant women aged 16 to 25

years. All were at risk of poor health or faced potential barriers to healthy eating.

Researchers were impressed by the basic skills that many youth had for preparing healthy foods, says Azevedo, and their resilience to “make something out of nothing,” a catchphrase that became the title of the food literacy report. “We were quite pleased to see many youth possessed basic food knowledge, but that outside factors often held them back from preparing healthy foods,” she notes.

Other key findings in the Making Something Out of Nothing food literacy report include:

- Youth want to learn hands-on food skills at school or community-based cooking programs. Online learning was less popular.
- “Knowing what’s in it” was the most common reason cited by youth for making their own meals.
- Preparing food for others, or for their

children, was a great a source of pride and satisfaction.

- Confidence in the kitchen was higher among those who learned earlier in life.
- Many young people never used recipes and valued the ability to improvise

In its recommendations, the report suggests: health units do more to build and coordinate food literacy programs, schools incorporate food literacy into classroom curriculum, and agencies provide more cooking programs in communities. There is also a call to advocate for more affordable housing and community kitchen facilities to break down barriers to healthy eating. The report’s contents are now finalized, and participating health units plan to share the results with their community partners as well as incorporate the recommendations into their own programs and services. The report is available at www.hkpr.on.ca under the “Data and Resources – Healthy Eating” section.

Legion happenings

Legion br. 129

Dave Allen PRO

Haliburton Legion

457-2571

Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start; Bingo Doors open at 6 p.m., bingo starts at 7 p.m. – \$500 jackpot

\$1,000 jackpot – Last Wednesday of the month

Thursdays: General meeting Second Thursday of the month starting at 7:30 pm
All members urged to attend

Ladies Auxiliary – Last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.

Fridays: Meat Draw – five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets are \$2 per draw. Chester Howse, MC

Saturdays: 50/50 – draw 4 p.m. draw, tickets are \$1 each from noon onwards

Sundays: Breakfast – Second and fourth Sunday of the month – 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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Whether you’re planning a function for 10 or 200, call the Legion today for more information 705-457-2571.



Legion br. 624

Jan Simon PRO

Wilberforce Legion

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Jam Session 7 p.m.

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Saturday

Meat Draw 2 to 5 p.m.

Karaoke 9 p.m. to close



NOTICE TO TRUCKERS 2014 SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS

Under the Highway Traffic Act and County By-Law #2216, the County of Haliburton enforces reduced load restrictions on trucks to protect the County roadways during spring thaw, when road damage is most likely to occur.

Restriction on permits issued under the Highway Traffic Act and County By-Law #2216:

As outlined in the Highway Traffic Act and County of Haliburton By-Law #2216, reduced loading will be in effect in the County of Haliburton effective 12:01 a.m. on March 1, 2014.

The actual date of reduced load limit enforcement will be in effect when and where signs are posted. All annual and project permits for moving of heavy vehicle loads, objects or structures, in excess of limits set out in the Act and the By-Law, unless otherwise specified, are not valid on any County Roads during the Reduced Loads Period.

Reduced load limits will be in effect where and when signs are posted.

WHEN SIGNS ARE POSTED, THE FOLLOWING ROADS WILL HAVE A REDUCED LOAD LIMIT FOR THEIR ENTIRE LENGTH:

County Roads 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 39, 48 & 507

On and after March 1st, check the County of Haliburton website www.haliburtoncounty.ca under “Notices” to see when reduced load limits are in effect and when they are lifted.

NOTICE (Applicant – DALRYMPLE)

IN THE MATTER OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT AND IN THE MATTER OF A PROPOSED BY-LAW OF THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF HIGHLANDS EAST TO CLOSE, STOP-UP AND CONVEY CERTAIN PORTIONS OF AN ORIGINAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROAD ALONG THE SHORE OF BILLINGS LAKE, MORE PARTICULARLY HERINAFTER DESCRIBED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at its regular meeting to be held at the Council Chambers, WILBERFORCE, Ontario on **Tuesday, the 11th day of MARCH, 2014**, at 9:00 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

FIRSTLY: Part of the original Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 30, Concession 7, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as part 1 on a Preliminary Plan of Survey made by C. T. Strongman, O.L.S., dated November 29, 2013; and

SECONDLY: Part of Lot 30, Concession 7, designated as Road Allowance on Registered Plan 399, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton shown as Part 2 on a Preliminary Plan of Survey made by C. T. Strongman, O.L.S., dated November 29, 2013.

The Preliminary Plan of Survey as referred to above is available for inspection during regular office hours (9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday) at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that before passing the said By-Law at the meeting to be held at the time and place above mentioned, the Municipality of Highlands East shall then and there hear in person or by his or her counsel, solicitor or agent, any person who claims that his, her or their lands will be prejudicially affected by the said By-Law and who applies to be heard in person. The person who wishes to address Council should contact the Township office for delegation time.

DATED at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 18th day of February, 2014.

IRENE S. COOK, CMO
CLERK/CEMC
Box 295
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0

NOTICE (Applicant – STURRUP)

IN THE MATTER OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT AND IN THE MATTER OF A PROPOSED BY-LAW OF THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF HIGHLANDS EAST TO CLOSE, STOP-UP AND CONVEY CERTAIN PORTIONS OF AN ORIGINAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROAD ALONG THE SHORE OF LITTLE GLAMOR LAKE, MORE PARTICULARLY HERINAFTER DESCRIBED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at its regular meeting to be held at the Council Chambers, WILBERFORCE, Ontario on **Tuesday, the 11th day of MARCH, 2014**, at 9:00 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 34, Concession 13, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 1 on a Preliminary Plan of Survey made by Greg Bishop, O.L.S., dated September 25, 2013.

The Preliminary Plan of Survey as referred to above is available for inspection during regular office hours (9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday) at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that before passing the said By-Law at the meeting to be held at the time and place above mentioned, the Municipality of Highlands East shall then and there hear in person or by his or her counsel, solicitor or agent, any person who claims that his, her or their lands will be prejudicially affected by the said By-Law and who applies to be heard in person. The person who wishes to address Council should contact the Township office for delegation time.

DATED at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 18th day of February, 2014.

IRENE S. COOK, CMO
CLERK/CEMC
Box 295
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0

NOTICE (Applicant – VESELINOVIC)

IN THE MATTER OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT AND IN THE MATTER OF A PROPOSED BY-LAW OF THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF HIGHLANDS EAST TO CLOSE, STOP-UP AND CONVEY CERTAIN PORTIONS OF AN ORIGINAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROAD ALONG THE SHORE OF ESSON LAKE, MORE PARTICULARLY HERINAFTER DESCRIBED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at its regular meeting to be held at the Council Chambers, WILBERFORCE, Ontario on **Tuesday, the 11th day of MARCH, 2014**, at 9:00 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 21, Concession 17, Township of Monmouth, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 1 on a Preliminary Plan of Survey made by Greg Bishop, O.L.S., dated July 12, 2013.

The Preliminary Plan of Survey as referred to above is available for inspection during regular office hours (9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday) at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that before passing the said By-Law at the meeting to be held at the time and place above mentioned, the Municipality of Highlands East shall then and there hear in person or by his or her counsel, solicitor or agent, any person who claims that his, her or their lands will be prejudicially affected by the said By-Law and who applies to be heard in person. The person who wishes to address Council should contact the Township office for delegation time.

DATED at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 18th day of February, 2014.

IRENE S. COOK, CMO
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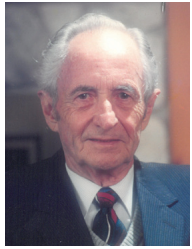
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In Loving Memory of

Grant Montgomery *of Halls Lake* –

Passed away peacefully after a brief illness at the Haliburton Hospital on Wednesday, February 19, 2014 in his 87th year.

Dearly beloved husband of the late Elsie (2001). Loving father of Don, Doug (Carol), Tom (Angie), Bob (Sandra), Cathy (Brad Griffin). Cherished grandfather of Jason, Jennifer, Ashley, Jeffrey, Gary, Cody, Caitlyn, Kassie, Jill and Matthew, great grandfather of Jordyn

and Chase. Dear brother of Alan (Joy). Fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the **Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd.**, 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 on Friday, February 21, 2014 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm and on Saturday, February 22, 2014 from 12:00 o'clock noon until the time of the Funeral Service at 1:00 pm. Spring Interment at St. Stephens Cemetery, Boshkung.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family.



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In Loving Memory of

David James Magee –

Passed away peacefully at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre, surrounded by his family, on Saturday, February 22, 2014 at the age of 71.

Loving husband and best friend for 52 years of Katherine (nee Schmidt). Dear father of Deborah (Earl) Bull, Lori (Scott) Hamilton. Cherished Papa of Cory (Melissa), Andrew (Jaimie), Jesse and Graham, Great Papa of Kelsey, Hailey, and Bently. Brother of Cindy, Maureen (deceased), Danny (Sue). Brother-in-law to Jackie (Doug). Fondly remembered by his many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the **Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd.**, 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden on Saturday, March 1, 2014 from 11:00 am until the time of the combined Arcadia Lodge 440 Masonic Service and Celebration of Life Service at 1:00 pm. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) or to the Charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family.



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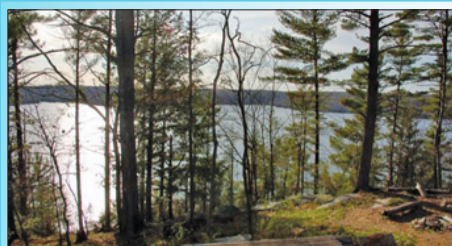
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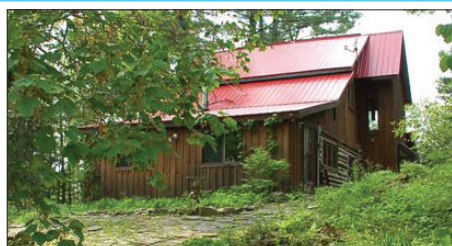
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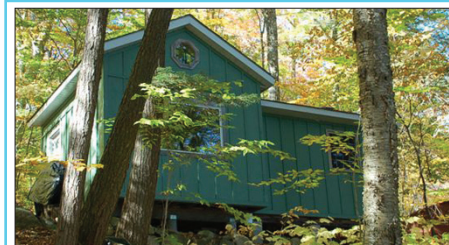
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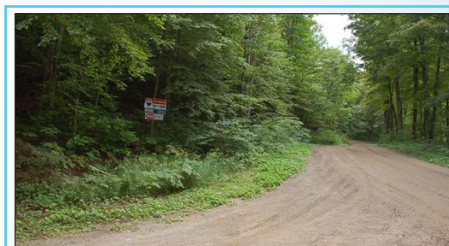
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